

THE STATE'S RIGHTS.

They Should be Protected on Water as Well as Land.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

He Discusses Oyster Matters in a Clear and Pointed Manner.

NEED OF PROMPT ACTION.

The Committee Directed to Report Without Delay Captain Hudgins' Claims Out of Tangier Sound.

The oyster question is the absorbing topic in legislative circles.

The recent trouble in Tangier Sound has stirred the members of the General Assembly up, and the Governor's message on the subject, which was outlined in yesterday's Dispatch, was looked forward to with great interest.

But about all other considerations is the honor and dignity of the Commonwealth. These waters belong to Virginia absolutely, and it is within the jurisdiction of the State to regulate the oyster trade. The Governor's message is a clear and pointed statement of the facts and the need of prompt action.

SENATE OF THE HOUSE.

This was Governor O'Ferrall's first message, except two or three voting messages, and it was received with great interest. The message was a clear and pointed statement of the facts and the need of prompt action.

THE SENATE ACTION.

In the Senate it was ordered to be printed, and the subject matter was referred to the Committee on Fish and Game. Subsequently, at a meeting of the latter committee, the Chairman, Mr. C. W. Stevenson, announced that the committee was authorized to sit during the session of the House.

It is understood that the two committees will meet in joint session this morning, and take up the whole oyster matter, and the Governor's message.

Text of the Message.

Here is the message in full: COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, RICHMOND, VA., February 20th.

To the General Assembly of Virginia.

As the present session of the Senate and House is drawn to a close and no great oyster interests from the depredations of non-residents, and the maintenance of the law in her waters and sustain her dignity, and fear, and in the press of business, I deem it my duty to call special attention to the oyster industry, and the need of prompt action.

At present the oyster industry is actually at the mercy of these marauders. We are unable to defend our rights, and daily and hourly these depredations are being committed on our waters, and the dignity of the State is being maintained.

We have in each of our counties, in form for the purposes for which they are intended. They are there to protect our waters, and to maintain the law, and sustain the dignity of the State, and they have failed in that duty.

THE RECENT FIGHT.

Within the last few days there was an encounter between the oyster boats of the Commonwealth and a number of depredators, with results disastrously to the schooner, as I learn.

On Sunday morning last about 1:30 I received the following telegram: Governor Charles T. O'Ferrall: Send Chesapeake. Dredgers about to get best of us. Ammunition out.

R. J. REED, Captain Pilot-Schooner Tangier.

I had no information as to the whereabouts of the schooner Chesapeake, but at 2 o'clock A. M. and again at 3 A. M. I endeavored to reach the commander by wire, with orders to go at once and speedily to the assistance of the Tangier. About 12 o'clock on yesterday I received the following telegram:

PORT MONROE, February 19, 1894. Have just seen your telegram to Mr. Booker. Will proceed to Tangier by rail immediately.

(Signed) W. E. HUDGINS, Governor Charles T. O'Ferrall.

Captain Hudgins here. Have just seen him. He will proceed at once.

(Signed) GEORGE DOCKER.

I have no further information, except that I have read in the State that the police-schooner Tangier, after a stubborn defense was driven off by a fleet of Maryland dredgers who were herded with their Winchester rifles.

To be frank, this statement, if true, and I do not doubt it is, is humiliating to me, and I am sure it is to your honorable bodies, and it is enough to arouse the pride of any Virginian and lead Virginia's representatives to a determination to protect her territory against marauders on land or water, let it cost what it may.

DESERVE BETTER PROTECTION.

Our oyster interests, in my opinion, are worthy of more consideration than they have had at our hands. Our oyster-boats and our citizens engaged in the trade are entitled to more protection than is now extended to them. Our waters are our oyster police force deserve better treatment than they now receive, and should not be required to

THE WAR IN TANGIER.

The Virginia Oyster Navy Engages a Maryland Privateer Fleet.

CANNON AND RIFLES USED.

Dredgers Open Fire and Are Raked by the Chesapeake—Two Vessels Captured and Eighteen Men.

TABLER, VA., February 20.—(Special.) Captain William E. Hudgins, commander of the Virginia oyster steamer Chesapeake, arrived in Pungoteague creek today, bringing with him two Maryland schooners and eighteen prisoners, captured in a fight with the Maryland oyster-steamer fleet.

RECAPITULATION OF THE FIGHT. The Chesapeake, a 100-ton schooner, was engaged by a fleet of Maryland schooners in Pungoteague creek today. The Chesapeake, a 100-ton schooner, was engaged by a fleet of Maryland schooners in Pungoteague creek today.

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Mr. Thomas Ashby Wickham will be the next Judge of the Henrico County Court.

Mr. Wickham, a resident of Henrico County, was nominated by the Democratic caucus last night on the first ballot and will be elected by the General Assembly in a day or two to succeed Hon. E. C. Minor, who will soon step up to the bench of the Court of Law and Equity.

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BURGLARY AT CREWE.

Eighty-five Dollars and a Gold Watch Secured.

Attempt to Kill the Victim—Two Negroes Arrested as Perpetrators of the Crime.

CREWE, VA., February 20.—(Special.) A very bold robbery and attempt to kill occurred this morning about 1 o'clock, which has caused no little excitement here.

Mr. Thomas Cann, who owns a bar-room at a mile from here, was robbed at his residence, which is about 100 yards from his place of business, of eighty-five dollars in money, and a gold watch valued at \$100. He was awakened by his wife, who heard a noise in the house. He got a lamp, and entering the hall took effect in his neck near the jugular vein. The wound, though painful, it is hoped will not prove serious.

The money was taken out of a box on the bureau in the room in which he was sleeping. Mr. Cann and his wife escaped out of a window and reported the robbery to Mr. Peter Lenoir, who then reported the fact to the officers.

Later today two colored men named John Orange, a brakeman on the Norfolk and Western railroad, and Andrew Lee Davenport, late of Henderson, N. C., who has been living with Orange for the last five months, have been arrested by Officers Henry Harper and John T. Lenoir, charged with the crime. On their persons were found a pistol and black-jack. The house of John Orange was searched, and were found some decks of cards, and other odds and ends.

Drs. W. T. Warriner and Julian H. Abbott probed for the pistol, but were unsuccessful in finding it near the spinal column.

The footprints near the house where the robbery was committed, fitted the shoes of Orange and Davenport. From evidence given by Orange's wife,

O SAY, can you see by the candle's dim light, What so badly I need for to-morrow's house-cleaning? I know if I have that, I'll get through by night! Yes it's that GOLD DUST POWDER! You will know my meaning!

With House-cleaning as easy as that great labor-saver Gold Dust Washing Powder.

Made only by N. K. FAIRBANK & CO., Chicago. Sold Everywhere.

REMOVED FOR SAFE KEEPING.

North Carolina Moonshiners Brought from Patrick to Danville.

DANVILLE, VA., February 20.—(Special.)—Patrick, Va. is not strong enough to resist a determined assault on the part of friends to set at liberty men incarcerated within its walls, hence two inmates had to be brought to this city. They are Otto Smith and Det. Hall. They were accused of violating

State revenue laws. Det. before the commissioner, sent on to the spring term of the United States grand jury, and confined in the Patrick county jail at Stuart. Sheriff J. J. Woodwine informed County Judge P. Bouldin that from certain movements of parties he had reason to believe that the friends of Smith and Hall would make an attempt to release them by an attack on the jail, and to avoid trouble and probably bloodshed it was decided that the men taken to Martinsville or Danville jails.

Judge Bouldin directed the Sheriff, in view of the information furnished by that officer, that the North Carolina friends of the prisoners would probably make an attempt at rescue, and owing to the insecurity of the county jail for retaining a determined attack, to take the men to Danville. The order was obeyed, and they are here, where they will remain until further disposition is made of the cases.

WATERWORKS FOR MARTINSVILLE. A System to Be Completed and Paid for in Sixty Days—Bonds Sold.

ROANOKE, VA., February 20.—(Special.)—H. A. Gravelly, attorney for the city of Martinsville, Va., signed a contract here today with H. A. Gillespie, president and general manager of the Virginia Construction and Paving Company, to construct a complete system of water-works for the first-planned plant at a cost of \$75,000. The works to be completed and the bonds to be sold by the city of Martinsville, bearing 6 percent interest and payable in thirty-four years to the amount of \$200,000 were disposed of at par to Roanoke bankers.

Damaged by a Runaway. CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., February 20.—(Special.)—The runaway of a horse-drawn wagon on Main street today, plunging into the plate-glass front of Roberts & Kennedy, shattered the windows, and caused the contents of the store to be scattered about the street. The horse, which was killed, was taken to the city of Martinsville, and the entire damage was probably \$500.

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